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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EWWT, BG, US

SUBJECT: FCN AND DOUBLE TAXATION TREATIES, CULTURAL
AGREEMENT

REF: STATE A-955 2/19/76; STATE A-993 2/23/76

1. SINCE TRANSMISSION OF A-955 CONCERNING THE APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST IN A DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT, BDG ECONOMIC COUNSELOR KARIM INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT BANGLADESH IS IN FACT ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE TAXATION. DESK OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT OUR FILES REFLECT TRANSMISSION OF USG COMMENTS ON BDG DRAFT TO AMEMB DACCA IN OCTOBER 1974, AND NO REPLY THEREAFTER FROM BDG. ECON COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER, SINCE BDG EAGER TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND BELIEVED DOUBLE TAX AGREEMENT AN IMPORTANT ENCOURAGEMENT.

2. USG COMMENTS ON BDG FCN DRAFT, TRANSMITTED IN A-993, HAVE BEEN PASSED TO BANGLADESH EMBASSY. ECON COUNSELOR INDICATED HE WOULD URGE HIS GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER US
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DRAFT.

3. ECON COUNSELOR MADE ANOTHER PITCH FOR CULTURAL AGREEMENT. HE WAS AWARE THAT BDG HAS NEVER RESPONDED TO USG DRAFT FULBRIGHT PROPOSAL (1972) AND ASKED IF THERE WERE SOME WAY TO CIRCUMVENT THE DIFFICULTIES THE BDG FOUND WITH THE USG DRAFT. DESK OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT USG COULD NOT RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION WITHOUT CLEARER INDICATION OF BDG DIFFICULTIES WITH PRESENT DRAFT. KARIM INDICATED BDG EAGER TO MOVE AHEAD ON CULTURAL FRONT AS WELL, AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH RELEVANT MINISTRIES

IN DACCA ABOUT DRAFT. KISSINGER

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